



28 APRIL, 2024

Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us. This week, our service will have an intergenerational focus, with an interactive reading and message, offering something for all ages.

Lectionary Readings

This week 28 April, 2024

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Next Sunday 5 May, 2024

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will be meeting in the chapel on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm. They are looking at Study 4 'Content where we are', please see Heather for more information.

Celebrate Messiah 12 May

Did you know that Pentecost is a Jewish Holiday? Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks or 'Pentecost' as it is called in the New Testament, is a late spring holiday in the Jewish Calendar which is rich with meaning and significance. While most Christians know of the powerful events of Pentecost in Acts 2, few are aware of the historical yearly observance that pointed toward it.

On Sunday 12th May, we are having a visit from Paul Cohen, from Celebrate Messiah, who will be sharing about Pentecost from both a Jewish and Christian perspective.

This presentation helps Christians make the connection between the biblical Festival of Shavuot with its ultimate fulfillment in the New Testament.

**Give thanks
to the LORD,
for he is good!
His faithful
love endures
forever.**

Psalm 136:1 NLT



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God Loves You

In deep conversation with various people over the years I have been struck by how common it is for people to feel as if they are not good enough, not in regard to anything specific, as in "I am not good enough to be a Professor of Mathematics" or "I am not good enough to fly this jumbo jet", rather, 'not being enough' as a general feeling of dis-ease, something we can't quite identify and something we struggle to overcome.

Feeling as if we are not enough can lead to a sense of competitiveness with others as we try to prove our worth, it can also lead to resentment, cynicism and bitterness. Instead of being grateful for the life we have we then exist in a constant state of misery and drudgery.

In a meditation on Psalm 136:1, which we will hear on Sunday morning, the narrator suggests that "all throughout our lives we are entranced into the notion that who we are, what we have, and what we do, is not enough".

I believe that the antidote to feeling as if we are 'not enough' is woven right throughout the holy scriptures and revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth; God loves us, just as we are, uniquely made, diverse, quirky, weird and wonderful. Each week as church goes hear the gospel proclaimed we are all hopefully hearing again and again, the same message, presented in a myriad of different ways but nevertheless less the same message, 'God loves you'. As children many of us used to sing "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so" but I wonder if we really stop to take this in and allow Jesus' love to free us from feelings of inadequacy and worthlessness.

We know that Jesus loves us in the most supreme way for Jesus' love for us is not dependent on who we are in the eyes of the world, or what we have, or what we do. If we consider ourselves unworthy, or not good enough to be loved in such a way we deny our very being, for as the scriptures say, it is in God we live and move and exist. In John 15:9, Jesus tells us "I love you, just as God loves me". Can there be anything more wonderful than that! Yet despite this proclamation, the temptation to be full of self-doubt can persist.

I like to think that God is always lingering around us, just waiting to for us to stop still long enough to accept this supreme divine love and hear the Spirit confirm it, saying, 'you are my beloved child, in you I delight'.

-Rev Gail